

HONORING THOSE WHO PERISHED ON THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL PLATFORM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 11 workers who lost their lives on April 20, 2010 in the explosion of a deep sea oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana. I also offer my sympathy to the four workers who were critically injured.

My deepest condolences also go out to the families of the deceased. The offshore drilling industry is known for its dangers. Oil rig workers often labor in severe and uncertain working conditions, fraught with difficulty. We are indebted to these courageous workers for their contributions to our country.

This is a tragedy not only for the workers and their families but the residents of the entire Gulf Coast region, and the United States. We honor the legacy of these men and their families and affirm that their contributions to a field crucial to our society are recognized by all.

We wish a speedy recovery to the four additional workers who were critically injured during the rig explosion. We also offer a heartfelt thank you to the emergency response workers who responded to the disaster. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

This incident highlights the importance of implementing and enforcing stricter offshore drilling regulations. Oil rig explosions and resulting oil spills can lead to the deaths of workers and cause irreversible damage to our environment, marine life, wildlife, food industries, and our economy. It is important that we address the lack of oversight in the offshore drilling industry and protect the lives of dedicated oil rig workers who make daily sacrifices in the interest of the United States.

RECOGNIZING RALPH KEMP FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. HARRY TEAGUE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a patriotic American who has given much of himself in securing the future of this country. Mr. Ralph Kemp is a veteran of the Marine Corps and the Vietnam War. Mr. Kemp also served as a retired Albuquerque Police Department Lieutenant in his hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico a few years after his military service. Some years ago, after some arm twisting he was taken on a trip to attend the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State. After that year there was no more arm twisting involved.

This year's American Legion New Mexico Boys' State session being held at the Campus of Eastern New Mexico University will mark Ralph Kemps' 30th consecutive session of attendance.

Ralph has held many positions throughout the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State organization which has taught thousands of New Mexico High School Seniors the rights

and responsibilities of being citizens of this great country of ours. Numerous members of our society have attended an American Legion Boys State or an American Legion Auxiliary Girls' State Session held annual on campus across this nation.

The program's alumni has held positions as CEO's, Artists, Athletes, Newscasters, Justices on the Supreme Court, both chambers of the House and Senate and even held the Position of President of the United States. It is organizations such as the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, who after wearing the uniform of our country, return home and continue to selflessly serve the communities of which they belong such as Ralph Kemp.

Ralph Kemp currently serves as the Executive Director of the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State program. Besides the dedicated week Ralph gives to the Boys' State program he has also served on the American Legion Boys Nation Staff for the past 15 years.

This is a week-and-a-half-long program where two boys from each state are selected to come to the Nation's Capitol to learn about government at the federal level. If two and half weeks of volunteer time working with this nation's youth is not enough, Ralph Kemp volunteers and additional week of his summer serving as the Director of the American Legions Junior Shooters programs annual competition. Ralph Kemp is to be commended for his dedication of many years of service to the youth of the nation at American Legion New Mexico Boys State and American Legion Programs. I thank him for his service and am very proud to have him recognized in the House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING PRINCIPAL JAN KING ON BEING NAMED THE 2010 WACHOVIA NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Principal Jan King of Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School in Mills River, North Carolina on being named the 2010 Wachovia North Carolina Principal of the Year. The designation of Principal of the Year not only signifies her effectiveness as an administrator but also the respect she has earned among her students, their parents, and their teachers.

With this honor Mrs. King will be appointed to the State Superintendent's Principal's Advisory Committee and will serve a one-year term as advisor to the State Board of Education. Principal King will also be appointed to a one-year term on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Public School Forum and will chair the 2011 Wachovia Principal of the Year Selection Committee.

As a native of Jackson County and an educator in the area, Mrs. King has spent most of her life in Western North Carolina. Throughout her educational career, Jan King has set a high educational standard for herself and her peers. In 2003, Mrs. King was named Henderson County Schools' Teacher of the Year and

achieved National Board Certification. Mrs. King has also been selected to speak at various events including the North Carolina Gifted Education Conference, North Carolina Social Studies Conference and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Conference. She also served as a teacher and a consultant for the Library of Congress American Memory Fellow Program.

The children of today are the leaders of our nation tomorrow. Educators like Principal King are central in providing these children the tools they need in order to be productive citizens in the future.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Principal Jan King and to thank her for her tremendous service to the students in Western North Carolina.

MEDIA SHOULD DEMAND ANSWERS FROM OBAMA

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today President Obama had his first full news conference in about 10 months.

That's longer than former President George W. Bush ever went between news conferences.

Here's what the Washington Examiner's chief political correspondent, Byron York, wrote recently about why the national media have tolerated President Obama's silence:

While Obama dodges questions, his spokesman stonewalls them.

In one sense, the press, or at least some members of the press, have only themselves to blame.

Obama treats them with contempt because he knows that when big tests come, they've always been on his side.

There's no reason for him to think they won't be there in the future.

Why does Obama do it? Because he can.

The national media should demand answers from the President, not give him a free pass on news conferences.

UNFAIR TREATMENT OF FEDERAL POSTAL WORKERS IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention an amendment that I proposed to H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2011, but unfortunately was not included for Floor consideration.

This proposed measure would amend the appropriate section of the Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act of 2009, Subtitle B of Title XIX of Public Law 111-84, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, to allow otherwise eligible workers in American Samoa to be paid territorial cost of living adjustment (TCOLA) rates that match the now frozen TCOLA rates applying to Guam.